

Occasionally M. Fabre sees reason to question the observations of former writers. Thus he has been unable to confirm the statement that *Pentatoma griseum* watches over its young like a hen over her chickens, or that the favourite prey of *Reduvius personatus* is the bed-bug; nor does he regard the superficial resemblance between *Volucella* and a wasp as having anything to do with mimicry. The relation of *Volucella* to the wasp seems to be that of a simple scavenger. We have not space to quote M. Fabre's observations, but one interesting point which he discusses, not for the first time, is the limitations of instinct. This is illustrated in the case of the common wasp. When its nest is covered with a bell-glass, the enclosed wasps never dig a passage out, but remain cooped up till they die; and though stragglers left outside will dig their way in, they are equally unable either to show their companions the way out or even to make their own escape.

*Index Animalium*, 1758-1800. A CAROLO DAVIES SHERBORN confectus. Cambridge University Press, 1902.

"THE objects of this work," says the author, "are (a) to provide zoologists with a complete list of all the generic and specific names that have been applied by authors to animals since January the first 1758; (b) to give an exact date for each page quotation; (c) to give a quotation for each reference sufficiently exact to be intelligible alike to the specialist and to the layman."

Although Mr. Sherborn has received help from many quarters, this has but lightened in some small degree a truly colossal task, which, indeed, the author scarcely hopes to finish in his lifetime.

The value of this undertaking to zoologists cannot be easily estimated. A solid foundation has at last been laid on which to base a definite system of nomenclature, though, having regard to the wilfulness displayed in certain quarters, this seems almost too much to hope for!

This first volume, in the matter of binding and printing, is in every respect worthy of the Cambridge University Press. It is a bulky book, embracing no less than 1195 pages.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

*On the Classification of the Thalassinidea.*

By L. A. BORRADAILE, M.A. &c.

#### ADDENDUM.

On p. 540, to the list of genera of the Laomediidæ, add: *Naushonia*.

On p. 541, after the definition of the genus *Jaxea*, add:

Genus NAUSHONIA, Kingsley, 1897.

Definition: "Laomediidæ which have on the maxillipeds of the first pair a lash to the exopodite and a podobranch, the first pair of legs stout and subchelate, the second pair very short and simple, and a well-developed, flat scale on the antenna."

Species:

Type. *N. crangonoides*, Kingsley, 1897. Bull. Essex Inst. xxvii.